

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, Editor.
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Attention is called to the change in the law about election commissioners. In all precincts casting as many as a hundred votes for governor at the preceding election double boards of election are provided for. The one board is known as the receiving board and they meet and organize and in every way conduct the election as under the old law. The additional board is known as the counting board. It reports at the polls four hours after the election begins and then receives the ballot box which has been used up to that time, and the second ballot box which now is included in the election outfit is put into service for the purpose of receiving votes. The counting board which is organized just as the regular board is, with three commissioners and two clerks retires to a place prepared for them in the voting place separated from the place where the voting is going on by some sort of a partition, and there it opens and counts and tabulates the votes that are found in the ballot box. The boxes are exchanged during the day from time to time.

Note that having finished this task, the counting board carefully seals the ballots that it has counted in an envelope that will be found for the purpose and this envelope is not to be opened until after the polls are closed and both receiving and counting boards are closing up the work and certifying the result of the election in that precinct.

When the polls are closed both boards work together to finish up, and both boards certify the result.

The boards shall prepare certificates of election as follows: One to be posted at the front door of the polling place; one to be sealed and returned to the clerk of the county court with the election returns; one sealed and mailed at the earliest possible opportunity to the clerk of the circuit court; and one for each party to be sealed and mailed to the secretary of state at Charleston, West Virginia. And remember that these certificates are to be so prepared and disposed of in every precinct whether there is a double election board or not.

There are twenty-five precincts in this county, and seventeen of them have double boards.

As is declared in the preamble of the act, the object of the law is to facilitate the counting and the declaring the result of the election.

The history of the law is that at both the primary and general elections of 1916, the State was kept in a turmoil for weeks while the vote was being tabulated and declared. Efforts to get the vote in over the phones resulted in great confusion. In many instances the result of the election at a precinct was written up and sealed with the ballots and this made it impossible to get at until the county court met to canvass the vote. The copy of the result to the circuit clerk will have the effect of preventing the official result being sealed with the ballots where it remained a secret of many days. The mailed reports to the secretary of state will give the result in the State promptly.

No man is a hero to his valet. And few are supposed to be heroes to the dentist. The Kaiser is certainly not a hero in the eyes of the American dentist who is now publishing his reminiscences of his association with the most dangerous and desperate man of all history. Dr. Arthur Davis who was the last American to escape out of Germany, had attended to the Kaiser's teeth for many years and had many conversations with the Emperor. Ordinarily there might be some question as to the propriety of a dentist publishing such a work as to what passed between a patient and his professional attendant, but the Kaiser has broken every rule of the game, and he is entitled to no consideration whatever where the good of mankind is concerned. The exposure of the private life of the Kaiser is important in that he had been defied by millions of the German speaking race. If the accounts of Dr. Arthur Davis result in informing these idol worshipers that their Kaiser is nothing more than a spoiled, erring, vain, human being with a disposition to kill and destroy, they will have served a good purpose.

An educated German who had seen the Kaiser many times says that he never knew that the Kaiser had a deformed arm until he came to America where such things could be discussed. The German people had practiced self-deception until they imagined that royalty was not subject to error.

The dentist treated the Kaiser both at the office where regular patients came, and at the palace. He depicts the Kaiser as a cock-sure man, who having received an erroneous idea, would base his actions on it. We gather he is the kind of man now walking barefooted and in want all over the world who would bet

two-pair to a finish.

Along with a deep rooted belief in militarism, the Kaiser seems to have wrong ideas of honesty in nations. In his talk with his dentist, he expressed surprise and wonder that the United States did not take the golden opportunity of the European war to seize both Canada and Mexico. He cannot understand yet why the United States should not have joined with him in oversetting the ordered arrangement of the world. To speak of the Kaiser as the international felon is almost a compliment. When he talks about the United States neglecting to conquer weaker nations, he appears more in the light of a moral idiot, by which term we understand a man who has not the power to distinguish between right and wrong.

One of the most interesting things that the author dentist discusses is the attitude of the Kaiser to the election of 1916, and he is probably right in his conclusion when he intimates that the Kaiser found little consolation in either of the two leading candidates for President. But it rendered all the more certain that our elections are important events in Berlin, and there is nothing that that highly organized government would not do to cause us to fall out among ourselves.

When America came into the war, and even before, the attitude of the Kaiser was that America had grown richer from the war, that we had to pay the Germans the expense of the war. The Kaiser did not realize that one of the most cherished principles of the American government is expressed in the never dying words: "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!" This the United States had made good when it was a weak nation, and recent events show that it has not deteriorated.

As Lincoln expressed it: We have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

Dr. Davis shows that the Kaiser has not had the education of the common man. That he has never been crossed or contradicted. That he does not know what it is to make for himself a place in the association with other men.

The Kaiser was disappointed in Roosevelt. When Roosevelt went back on his old familiar friend, the Kaiser immediately remembered and remarked to his dentist who now tells us that he was disappointed in Mr. Roosevelt, to whom he had accorded the greatest honor ever given a private citizen, that of having paraded the troops before him.

Another impression that we gather of the Kaiser in reading these accounts of the man in his private intercourse with his dependents, is that he is like men that we have known in this country who having had a streak of luck for some years, fall into the error of believing that they are not as other men are, and that they are not subject to reverses. We have never known such a man but who met his Waterloo at length, and great was the fall thereof. They invariably overplay their hands.

The parting injunction that the Kaiser gave to Dr. Davis was, that if he saw the Kaiser's second cousin, the King of England, he was to kick him on the shins for him.

The three Norns, Urda, Verdandi, and Skuld, sat under the ash-tree Yggdrasil, at Doomstead, and span the events of human life, weaving into the web the present great war, but the Kaiser must have a Norn or Fate of his own, lifting him up high so that he may be dashed to destruction.

At a recent event in Cincinnati, there was a doll displayed and the contest was to guess its name. A name had been given it by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and the secret was well kept, for though there were over twenty thousand persons who guessed not one of them succeeded in giving the name. The doll had been named Francesca Britannia, and the nearest guess was France, and this secured the prize.

The only fairy story that we remember at this moment, involved a contest of this kind. The king had a beautiful daughter and her name was kept a secret. The king ordained that the suitor who guessed her name should have the right to marry her, but if he guessed wrong then he was immediately taken out of the game, and his head cut off. The beauty of the girl was so great that many noble youths tried for her hand and failed, so that the princess had a private burying ground of rejected lovers out off in the pride of their days for love of her.

Finally an exceptionally good looking prince rode up to the home of the king and hitched his horse at the front gate and went in. The princess was pleased with the appearance of the candidate, and felt sorry that there was to be another funeral.

o'clock a. m., and then he conducted the visitor to his chamber where he was left to ponder on the difficult task which he had undertaken.

While he rested there weighing over the possibility of such names as Mehitable and Miranda, a servant knocked at the door and presented to him a parrot, saying that the princess had sent it to him to keep him company. So the prince took the parrot in and sat there in his lonely room with the parrot. The parrot seemed to have but two words at his command which he repeated over and over. They were strawberries and vanilla. All day and all night and the next morning, the parrot would prattle about strawberries and vanilla, and the prince pondered and pondered.

The next day he went to the throne room, and there was the king and his council, and by him was the pretty princess, who looked so sorry for the poor prince, for she had been through the ceremony often and she hated to think that he so soon would be taken out into the back yard and butchered.

When the prince was called upon to give the name of the princess, he replied in a loud voice, "Strawberries Vanilla." and the princess gave a loud cry of joy and answered present. That was her name and she had with the artfulness of the true woman taken a hand in the proceedings the minute that the right man came along. And so they were married and lived happily together for a considerable time.

The primary is next week, and it is the first primary election that we have ever seen approach with so little said and done to stir up strife and confusion among the people. Some time ago the President said something about politics being adjourned that has been taken very literally in this part of the country. The mimic warfare of the old time primaries has been totally obscured by a very real and serious warfare to preserve our system of government formed by our revered ancestors and bequeathed to us to keep and maintain.

It is the duty of men to come out next week and name the men who are to be put up for office by the various political parties, but it will be seen after the election that this can be done without showing heat of passion or bad blood as between the voters. A calm decision is always worth more than one rendered in hot blood. For once the candidates whose interest is largely selfish have not succeeded in embroiling the voters. A lives by B. They are good neighbors and friends. Why should their peace be broken by the interested action of men who live far away from both and who take no personal interest in them after the elections. The case has always been presented wrong and it has had the effect of stirring up strife. The neighbors should talk it over and settle the matter according to their respective lights, for that is what they are called upon to do. Why should a voter get hot over his candidate becomes more and more mysterious to us as we get older. Go on and vote. Vote as you believe to be right. Do it as a part of the day's work.

If the time ever comes when men can decide an election as they do a law suit, there will be more safety in elections for the country, and less sure things for the candidates. Word has travelled from afar, that in the West and in other places, the tendency is to independent thought and action, and that much good is to be hoped from it. We know there is a great change in our own section of the country, from the day when men voted as they shot, to this period when they dislike to go to the primary because the law makes them line up with one party or the other.

At the same time, we would not undervalue the importance of private citizens taking part in the elections. Cato said: Some have said that it is not the business of private men to meddle with government—a bold and dishonest saying, which is fit to come from a mouth but that of a tyrant or a slave. To say that private men have nothing to do with government is to say that private men have nothing to do with their own happiness or misery; that people ought not to concern themselves whether they be naked or clothed, fed or starved, deceived or instructed, protected or destroyed.

Come out to the primary and vote and settle the question and for once we will be spared the pain of seeing disputes between private citizens caused by the artificial, unreal, but fomented hatred between candidates. And it came to pass that two men contended for a nomination, and they were bitter in their hearts, so they people went unto a judge of such matters and said unto him: which of these two men will be beaten? and he said unto them, both—one in the primary and one in the general election, for the sore went out and got sorer, and the people marvelled together, for they knew that the judge had done spoke a parable unto them,

FROM SOLDIERS

Editor Times: Before I joined the army I was always interested in reading the letters published in your paper from the boys of Pocahontas county. Now since I am a soldier and as there are three other boys besides myself here, I decided to write a letter to your paper to let the folks back home know how we are getting along. The other three boys are Lock Live-say, Dale Wiley, and Vaughn Geiger. We have been together since the 15th of May. We were sent from Marlinton to Richmond where we remained until Saturday night, May 13th. Then our Uncle decided we must move so we were sent here.

We all like army life fine, however, there is one thing connected with it that doesn't exactly suit my notion and that is the vaccination and inoculation for smallpox and typhoid fever. The two words—vaccination and inoculation were too large for our vocabularies so we just shortened them to one word, "shots." The first "shot" that I received did not hurt me much, so when I saw the other fellows falling around and looking like dead men, it seemed funny to me. I was laughing at one poor old boy who was very sick telling him he wasn't tough. He looked at me rather funny and said, "Laughing is catching." He was too sick to say any more. The next "shot" I received I realized that what he said was true for I certainly got sick, and after that when I saw one of them staggering around I just looked at him with a sympathetic shudder and wondered when my time would come.

This is a large camp and there are many interesting things to be seen, one of which is about one hundred German prisoners. They are surrounded by a high barb wire fence and are guarded all the time. We were out to see them one evening last week and the boys laughed at me for getting mad at penned up Germans, but the fact is I have no use for one penned up or otherwise. We were discussing the war situation among ourselves after our visit and one of the boys said, "There will be lots of us boys pushing up daisies in France before this war is over." But the way I have it doped out, there might be some of us that unfortunate; but there will be a dickens of a lot more Germans pushing up hops to make their beer and no Germans left to pick them.

Before I volunteered I heard lots of mothers talking about their boys and their conversation was usually along the line of food and clothing. I am going to give you the menu we had today for dinner then they can judge for themselves whether or not we have enough to eat: pork chops with gravy, Irish potatoes, tomatoes, sweet peppers, iced grape juice, cake, watermelon and home made bread. Think we can live on that, don't you?

There is a large observation balloon near our barracks. I have seen it go up two or three times. Well I would like to write more but will wait to see if you publish this or not, and then there is a hostess house not far from here where there are usually a lot of pretty girls on Sunday afternoons, so Wiley and myself are going out.

George W. Gragg,
21st Battalion, 7th Reg., F. A. R. D.
Care Radio School, Camp Jackson,
July 2, 1918.
South Carolina.

Editor Pocahontas Times: This evening gives me time, place and opportunity to write a few lines to let the people of Pocahontas know that I have not forgotten them and hope they have not forgotten the absent ones. We have a good time here, have plenty to eat and wear, so in this world's good is all that is necessary. It is very hot here in Texas, registered about 104 yesterday.

There was a large bunch of us inoculated for typhoid yesterday and we did not drill any today. We get Wednesday and Saturday afternoons off. Most of the boys like it very well here but there are some who are always grumbling but it don't get them anything in Uncle Sams work. As for myself, I am well pleased. Although we have some things to do that is not pleasant at all, we do it with a smile, go ahead and say nothing about it.

I want to thank the Red Cross for the kit they gave me the day I left the Pocahontas. It has been a great deal of use to me. There is one Pocahontas boy in the 57th Infantry besides myself and he is in a different company. He is Headquarters Co. and I am in Co. A. but we are only a short distance apart. His name is John J. Shafer. He is just the same as a stranger to me, as I never knew him till the day we left home. There are a lot of West Virginia boys here. Company A. is mostly West Virginia and Indiana boys but we are not very well acquainted yet but we will be soon.

I am at Y. M. C. A., 50, this evening writing. It is almost the same as home. There is a sign up which reads this way: "If you spit on the floor at home spit on the floor here. We want you to feel at home." So why should we not feel at home. The Y. M. C. A. furnishes all kinds of books to read and all the paper and envelopes we want to use. The Y. M. C. A. men are a fine bunch of christian fellows. We have Bible class every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, and a talk every Sunday and Wednesday night at 8 o'clock, and is a great deal of help to those of us who are trying to live christians. The Lord has been a great help to me since I left home, and I think there are a lot of the fellows who see things different since they came here.

We have a fine lot of officers. They are so kind to us and try to get us to learn as fast as possible, in a kindly way, so we owe them a lot of courtesy and loyalty. We are having roasting ears, tomatoes, canteloupes, peaches and a number of like that. I don't know anything about the crops as we are not in a farming section. How are the crops in W. Va.? Fine I suppose. We have been having lots of rain. Friends don't forget to write to us



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real often for it makes our hearts rejoice to hear from our friends and loved ones at home. That is one way you can help the soldier boys. They would rather get a letter from home than a box of something to eat, though they appreciate that too, so don't fail to write real often.

There was a Frenchman spoke here last night. He said there was one thing that was needed in the Trenches and that was letters from home—cheerful ones. We must not write sad letters home if we want cheery letters from home.

Emerson C. Wooddell,
Co. A. 57th Infantry,
Camp Logan, Houston, Texas.
June 19, 1918.

Dear Father: Even though it is getting quite late I am going to write you just a few lines before retiring. I went to New York City last night, which is about sixty-five miles from the camp, and upon return this afternoon I found your letter awaiting me, also the Testament which I assure you was highly appreciated.

This is a nice camp, only that it is too far from nowhere. We have barracks to stay in instead of tents, as was the case at Camp Sever. The water here is just fine and I believe it is almost as cold as the well water in Greenbrier.

I cannot say just how long we will be here but all are getting very anxious to get on the other side before the Germans get whipped. They certainly must be getting very weak. I notice in this afternoon's paper that the German line is broken. I feel that it is a matter of only a short time now before they will give in. I certainly want to get across and if possible see at least a little of the excitement. However, I know I will not have a chance as I am assigned to office work altogether. I certainly hope you are not going to worry over our having to go, because I am going to be kept in the office and couldn't get in a mix up if I wanted to. We have one of the best companies in the whole of the 1st Stonewall Division. Our officers are all just fine.

As it is getting late and not having much time for writing you will have

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